defence personnel staying in Hazipur line are provided potable water supplied by the MES through tubewell as no MCD water supply exists.

(c) As per information available Block No. 26 of Hazipur line is a permanent RCC construction and is not very old. Five complaints which were received by MES complaint-cell during the last 3 months pertain in sewage blockages which were promptly attended to.

Procurement of radar tubes by IAF

36. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IAF (RCPO) procured three radar tubes at a cost of Rs. 95.31 lakhs inspite of the fact that 23 such tubes were already in stock and the consumption record did not warrant any additional purchase at this stage; and

(b) if so, the reason for this infructuous expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) The IAF purchased three Cross Field Amplifier tubes for radars from the defence PSU, viz. BEL based on the in-service life as per the Warranty terms of the manufacturer.

(b) There is no infructuous expenditure as the current stock is expected to be exhausted within the next about 2-3 years at current consumption rate with increased hours of radar usage.

IAF aircraft lost in crashes, shot-down and grounding

37. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM BHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of IAF aircrafts lost in (i) crashes, (ii) shot-down, and (iii) grounding during 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far;

(b) the comparative figures for 1995-96 and 1994-95; and

(c) the steps taken to augment the fleet during the period indicating the cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) The number of aircraft lost in crashes during 1996-97 and 1997-98 (till date) are 20 and 06 respectively as compared to 25 and 28 respectively during 1994-95 and 1995-96. These mainly involve fighter and trainer aircraft. However, there has been no incident of any aircraft being shot-down or grounded during 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(c) It would not be in our security interest to indicate the number of aircraft inducted and the cost involved therein.

Delay in important defence projects

38. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many important projects like Main Battle Tank, (Arjun), Light Combat Aircraft, Project Sea Bird, Advance Light Helicopter, New MM Indian Small Arms System and Pilotless Target Aircraft are stymied by inordinate delay;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the original targeted period and period of delay and the present position of the projects; and

(c) the original and the escalated costs of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Defence projects like, Main Battle Tank (Arjun),